

### REMARKS

The present application included claims 1-25, all of which were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 13 and 22 have been amended, while claims 6, 7 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Abstract has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

The title of the invention has been amended as set forth above.

Claims 8 and 9 were amended to overcome the objections noted in the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “wherein said main body, said rollerball and said bearing are each formed of an anti-bacterial material or covered with an anti-bacterial coating.” Claim 13 recites “wherein an entirety of the pen-shaped input device is formed of anti-bacterial material or covered with an anti-bacterial coating.” Claim 22 has been amended to recite that the rollerball and the input device are “anti-bacterial.”

The Office Action relies on an English translation cover sheet for JP 0116354 (“Iwase”) as disclosing an input device being formed of an anti-bacterial material. *See* July 5, 2007 Office Action, *e.g.*, at page 6.

The Iwase cover sheet states an “Antibacterium type wiring tool such as a ball point pen, signing pen, sharp pen, brush pen and fountain pen – has main body and cap part made up of material which includes antibacterial agent.” *See* Iwase cover sheet (provided to Applicants by Examiner). The cover sheet also states that the “wiring tool is constituted by a cap part (1) and a main body (2). The outer surface of this main body and the cap part is made up of material which includes an antibacterial agent.” *See id.* In relation to the Figures of Iwase, only the cap

part 2 and the main body 1 are “made up of material which includes an antibacterial agent.” The cover sheet of Iwase does not indicate that the ink delivery tube and tip of the pen are made up of antibacterial agents. Indeed, the Applicants respectfully submit that a ball point ink delivery system or other such system would not be formed of an anti-bacterial agent. For example, if an ink ball point was covered with an anti-bacterial coating, ink that flowed around the ball point would most likely erode such coating.

The proposed combination of Jensen, Iwase and the other cited references does not describe, teach or suggest “wherein said main body, said rollerball and said bearing are each formed of an anti-bacterial material or covered with an anti-bacterial coating,” as recited in claim 1, as amended. Thus, for at least this reason, the proposed combination of references does not render claims 1-5 and 8 unpatentable.

Similarly, the proposed combination of references does not describe, teach or suggest “an anti-bacterial rollerball assembly...,” or a “plurality of anti-bacterial lateral buttons positioned on said main body,” as recited in claim 9. Thus, for at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination of references does not render claims 9-12 unpatentable.

Additionally, the proposed combination of Jensen, Iwase and the other cited references does not describe, teach or suggest “wherein an entirety of the pen-shaped input device is formed of anti-bacterial material or covered with an anti-bacterial coating,” as recited in claim 13, as amended. Thus, for at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed combination of references does not render claims 13-17 and 19-21 unpatentable.

The proposed combination of references also does not describe, teach or suggest “providing an anti-bacterial rollerball at a distal end of an anti-bacterial input device,” as recited in claim 22, as amended. Thus, for at least this reason, the proposed combination of references does not render claims 22-25 unpatentable.

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the pending claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, the Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. The Applicants expressly reserve the right, however, to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statement should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney. While no fee is believed due with respect to this Amendment, the Commissioner is nonetheless authorized to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-2401.

Respectfully submitted,

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